

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
23 June 2009
Minutes

Present: Councilors Keith Nyhan, Chair; Fred Keach, Liz Blanchard, and Bill Stetson. Mike Russell, Greg Banks, Terry Clarkson, Paula Mattis, Melanie Doiron, and Brian Phelps

Staff: Chip Chesley, Bob McManus, Pat Winn, Phil Bilodeau, Tom Aspell, Jim Howard, and Karon Devold.

Guests: Elaine Kellerman, Craig Musselman and Paul Schmidt.

Review and Approve the Minutes of May 27, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 PM. Bill Stetson moved to approve the minutes and they were seconded with one minor change.

PAYT UPDATE

Fred Keach asked if retailers can add to the cost of the PAYT bags. Bob McManus informed the committee that retailers cannot. The city of Dover does, but, they started the PAYT program over ten years ago.

Council voted to eliminate the yard waste pickup from mid June through October. People can take their yard waste to the Gelinas site at Fort Eddy at no cost. They will have to show their driver's license to prove residency (Concord and Penacook) and the site will keep track of the number of vehicles using it for yard waste.

Gelinas Excavating hours are only Monday through Friday, 7:00 to 3:30 PM. The committee asked if there was any way possible Gelinas could open for a half day on Saturday and close a half day early during the week to accommodate people to take their yard waste. Chip said he would look into it, though he feels there would be a cost involved. Pat Winn is looking into a dumpster at the Recycling Center for yard waste.

Tom Aspell is requesting a sign be made and posted at the Gelinas site indicating that yard waste is free to dump for Concord and Penacook residents. There has been confusion in the past whether or not they could dump at no charge.

Single Stream Discussion and Recommendation

Chip presented the overview of Single stream and the COOP's discussion from our last meeting. Currently, the COOP has 22,000 tons in place, which includes Concord. The COOP has secured construction bids and met with the finalist.

The City of Concord just went through a very rigorous budget. We will continue to recycle, and still provide the same level of service to residents. Our recycling program contract is a five year agreement. Curbside is a dual stream program. Would be beneficial to do single stream.

Facilities available to deliver recycling are in Portland, Maine, Vermont and Canada. Even if we could secure single stream, we would have to move it to a facility.

We have a five year contract with Bestway for recycling and solid waste, with an opt-out clause; in eighteen (18) months, we will negotiate costs for reduction and take savings to the COOP, if the facility is up and running by then.

Councilor Blanchard asked if Bestway would use the new facility.

The COOP has \$2,000,000 in their facility reserve Fund. Monies were set aside each year. The terms of the COOP is a general commitment to bring all recycling to the facility, which will be on line and running January 1, 2011. Any COOP member can join at any time, but, once you join, you're "in it" for the duration.

Melanie Dorion asked where the recyclables from the transfer station will go...which once the facility is built, will go there. The COOP is talking to Bestway about picking up and delivering commercial material as well.

Councilor Nyhan asked if it costs to get out of the contract. COOP has interest to fill the facility. Will set tipping fee attractive enough to entice customers. During the early years, repayment will be some, but not all. They are hoping it's self financed. The rest will be refinanced. Participants set that net cost. Members of the COOP constitute 2/3 of the board, which includes 27 communities.

There is no successor facility when Wheelabrator is "done" for however long that is...5-20 years out.

Tom Aspell had questions regarding the COOP agreement. How to own and operate a facility...members would deal with members and how it will work. Board? What rates are going to be? Budget and capital repayment?

Tom asked about the number of votes...based on population. Can it be changed? Craig told him yes. Tom said it just didn't seem fair because of the communities that may not recycle. Those who are, are not aggressive. Historically, the voting structure was set at 1/3 of the Cooperative. Recycling Board-no value; no capital.

The COOP has been in existence since 1985. Closest vote was 22 to 2. Prices for all commodities is the same. There's nothing in the document for capital to pay back. Not forced to pay back without value. If facility is not functioning, we're not required to pay back.

Councilor Stetson asked what happens after the eighteen month opt out...what if recycling becomes very valuable? If we are joining COOP facility, will Bestway raise their fee? What about trucking fee?...Stays the same.

Belmont wants to recycle, but, doesn't have a vehicle to transport it at the moment.

Chip explained that for the first eighteen months with Bestway, the cost is \$30 a ton. End of eighteen months, facility should be competitive. Needs both residential and businesses recycling to work. Price needs to be competitive. Bestway able to move on the spot market. No long term commitment – should be done by anyone. Bestway has a five year contract to us...we're making an eighteen month contract to Bestway.

Logically, we will set the rate to save costs. Councilor Keach asked if the board decides what to do with if funds weren't used to build the facility. No discussion of returning monies to the communities.

In 2012, new transfer station is in the budget for the COOP. Would have to recommend to build and City wouldn't have to. A five year contract secures better prices. Committed for life of facility..which could be fifteen years.

Net revenue generator – would come back to community? A budget would be established. Dividend paid back if and when it turns positive. The constraint for the operating committee...Recycling/tipping fee would not go below the "black line".

Does the COOP have an ash commitment? Yes, another phase for 2014 to 2018. Same site expanding for that. No capital paid back if everyone opts out..if tonnage was nuts.

Letter of commitment before July. Chip has it...it's only two paragraphs. Should be online August 2010. Downside could be a disaster for communities.

Maximum capacity 70,000 tons a year...365 days. Equipment to double that; 140,000 tons; two shifts. Impact on other regions? Probably almost all the recycling in NH; but doesn't see it doubling.

5-10 year 50,000 – 60,000 tons in communities and residential. Life only 15 years? Based on financing. Periodically update equipment. Would still have to be operable after 15 years. Waste to Energy up to 50 years.

Will need an additional \$12,000,000. Road would need .7, Equipment 6, Facility 4.5

Host Agreement – has not been discussed between City Manager and Jim Pressure. Community needs to decide whether or not to do this, or authorize the City Manager to decide in a week...probably won't happen.

Possible for committee to make recommendation; to make formal recommendation – or come back July 7th. Committee members not comfortable without a public hearing. Joint board mtg. – won't happen until Concord says yes.

City Manager needs extra time for financials. Councilor Nyhan – not ready for July 30th, possibly by August 10th. Downside to wait three weeks? July 18th COOP turns into pumpkins.

Committee feels good about it but need public hearing. Come back July 7th.

Councilor Keach tentatively endorsed proposal. Renegotiate contract contingent on city staff due diligence and presentation to Council on July 13th. Councilor Nyhan agrees...all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM. Next meeting is July 7th, at COMF at 4:15 PM.